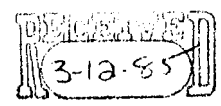


1984

HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON TWELVE  
HS-12

COMMAND HISTORY



HS-12 was commissioned on 15 July 1977 under the operational and administrative control of Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. As the newest squadron in the HS community, HS-12 was the first to be equipped with the SH-3H Sikorsky helicopter which incorporated the TACNAV computerized navigation system.

*Jaggs*

In the fall of 1977, HS-12 placed two detachments onboard USS PAUL E. FOSTER (DD-964) to conduct SH-3H/DD-963 class operational interface evaluations. The advantages of the SH-3H sensor suite working in concert with the Spruance class ships was impressively demonstrated.

During the first half of 1978, HS-12 embarked a three plane detachment on USS CORAL SEA (CV-43) to provide plane guard and logistics support. This detachment accomplished the squadron's first two rescues of downed aviators. On July 1, 1978, HS-12 became a component of Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN.

In early 1979, Squadron personnel and helicopters embarked aboard USS AMERICA (CV-66) for deployment from March through September. Over 2000 hours of accident-free flying and the rescue of three downed aircrewmembers highlighted the deployment. The officers and men of HS-12 earned seventy letters of commendation and eleven service decorations for outstanding performance during this period. In recognition of its outstanding safety record, HS-12 was awarded the CNO Safety Award for 1979.

During 1980, while stationed at NAS, North Island, San Diego, the squadron participated in numerous local ASW exercises and placed two detachments onboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) and USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) while preparing for the squadron's next deployment.

HS-12 next embarked aboard USS AMERICA (CV-66) in 1981 for a successful Indian Ocean deployment. This deployment was highlighted for the Wyverns by the rescue of fifteen battlegroup shipmates and a high degree of professionalism in ASW throughout the deployment. During the operational readiness exercise prior to deployment, HS-12 received a grade of high excellent and in one 26 day period flew a record 539.4 hours.

In October 1982, HS-12 was assigned to Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN (CWW-14) and USS CORAL SEA (CV-43). This gave HS-12 the unique opportunity of being the first ASW squadron assigned to CV-43. Although joining the ship midway through the pre-cruise work ups, the Wyverns were evaluated "number one" squadron in the Air Wing during the ORE.

The 1983 around the world deployment aboard USS CORAL SEA gave the Wyverns the opportunity to participate in the largest ASW exercise since World War II -FLEETEX 83-1. The strong "teamwork" effort by all members of HS-12 resulted in their recent selection as the winner of the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy which recognizes the most improved readiness in the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In November 1983, HS-12 received word that they would be taking the experience gained onboard CV-43 and joining Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CWW-5) and USS MIDWAY (CV-41) in Yokosuka, Japan.

In early 1984, while the Wyverns prepared for their move to Japan, HS-12 was tasked with four detachments aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) providing plane guard and logistics support for the Connie and CWW-14 during their initial work ups following CV-64's extended yard period.

On 15 July 1984, HS-12 officially became an operational part of CWW-5 and USS MIDWAY (CV-41). Once again as the "first ever" ASW asset aboard we were equal to the challenge, during the first four months embarked, HS-12 accumulated more submarine contact time than most squadrons achieve during a lengthy deployment. Of the eleven ASW exercises during this period noteworthy were FLEETEX 84-1, ANNUALEX 59G and our ORE.

HS-12 plays an active role in improving relations between the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) and United States Navy. Helping to establish a joint Helicopter Operations Committee has led to a mutually beneficial exchange of information and tactics. This effort has resulted in improved coordination of joint submarine services between the two services.